

Continuing along this path, the HIRE Act was signed into law, strengthening small businesses with tax credits and write offs allowing them to expand and increase employment.

I am committed to continuing to support measures like these that put the American people first.

I am confident that if we continue to put the American people first instead of relying on partisan talking points, we will continue to recover.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF  
STACEY DANSKY

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for her service to the House, the Judiciary Committee's Chief Copyright Counsel, Stacey Dansky. For 8 years she has worked ably and diligently for the Judiciary Committee and we commend her for her achievements.

After graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Vanderbilt University, Stacey earned her law degree with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, where she served as the Chief Notes Editor for the Texas Law Review. She clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Lee H. Rosenthal in Houston and later practiced law with the Washington firm of Williams & Connolly.

With the Judiciary Committee, Stacey has worked on a host of issues of national significance—principally in intellectual property policy, antitrust law, civil liberties and women's rights. Stacey's efforts proved critical to the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, and she was instrumental in the House's overwhelming passage of the Free Flow of Information Act in 2007. From 2002 through 2008, Stacey served as the Chief Antitrust Counsel to the Democratic Members of the Committee. She helped coordinate the Committee's consideration of corporate mergers like those of XM-Sirius and Delta and Northwest Airlines, drafted legislation and organized hearings on net neutrality and telecommunications issues, and led the Committee's oversight efforts involving particular industries, including the oil and the credit card industries.

As the Committee's Chief Copyright Counsel, Stacey worked tirelessly on efforts to curb digital piracy, negotiate orphan works legislation, protect copyright in research publications and made invaluable contributions to the enactment of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property (PRO-IP) Act of 2008. She has deftly and expertly led the Committee's negotiations to extend and to update the satellite and cable compulsory licenses; as she has efforts to establish a full public performance right for sound recordings, set forth in H.R. 848, the "Performance Rights Act."

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, we would like to thank Stacey for her commitment to the Committee and her exemplary work. Her hu-

mility, generosity, sense of humor and professionalism will be sorely missed. She has served as a cherished advisor to the Committee's members and as a colleague, mentor and friend to many present and former Committee staff members. We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S.  
COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strong and lasting relationship between the United States and Israel. For six decades, the U.S. and Israel have sustained an abiding commitment to each other based on shared principles and common goals. We believe strongly in Israel's commitment to peace and security in the region and recognize that Israel has taken great risks toward peace and deserves the right to self-defense.

The United States stands resolutely beside Israel against the threat of attack, by publicly supporting Israel's right to self-defense, promising security assistance, and strengthening sanction authority against Iran. Iran's refusal to engage in the diplomatic process to address worldwide concerns about its nuclear program dictates that sanctions need to be considered. A nuclear Iran is a severe threat to American and Israeli national interests, and I have joined with many of my colleagues to urge the Obama administration to impose strong sanctions on Iran.

Israel's commitment to the peace process has been steadfast despite real threats from Hamas and Hezbollah, epitomized by the unilateral pullout from Gaza and willingness to negotiate with the Palestinian government. We need to keep the peace process moving forward and working together, I am confident we will continue to make progress.

Madame Speaker, in recognition of all of the important contributions Israel has made and the many challenges it continues to face, I have again cosponsored legislation to commemorate the anniversary of Israel's creation, its 62nd. I am confident the United States and Israel will continue to work together for peace and prosperity in the Middle East and the world for generations to come.

HONORING COAL MINERS FROM  
UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE IN  
WEST VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 14, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1236, which honors the 29 coal miners who tragically died in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South, extends condolences to the victims' families, and recognizes the valiant efforts of the emergency workers who responded to the mine disaster. H. Res. 1236 is an important measure that ex-

presses our heartfelt sadness over this tragic loss of life in Raleigh County, West Virginia. Importantly, it also reaches out to the friends and families who are grieving their loss, and honors the selfless men and women who risked their own lives in responding to the disaster.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, my friend Congressman NICK RAHALL. The coalminers tragically lost in the disaster were his constituents and I know how heavily this tragedy is weighing upon him. But I also know his resolve to do all he can to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, in West Virginia, coal mining is more than just a profession—it is a way of life, a vital part of the State's history and culture. However, the work done by coalminers has implications across the country. Our Nation is indebted to West Virginia coalminers for the dangerous work that they do on a daily basis to help power our Nation and keep it strong and secure. Despite repeated accidents in our Nation's mines, coalminers have returned to the mines time and again in order to support their families and provide the energy that helps fuel industry and power homes across the country. The 29 miners lost in the disaster were performing this important work and deserve our gratitude and appreciation. Just as important, their families deserve our condolences and support in this time of need.

It is also entirely fitting that we honor the brave emergency workers who responded immediately to the disaster and worked tirelessly to rescue those trapped and injured in the disaster. The emergency responders entered the Upper Big Branch Mine with full knowledge that they may never return from the mine. This willingness to put their own lives at risk in an attempt to save others is heroic and worthy of our continued gratitude and praise.

Finally, the tragedy in Raleigh County, West Virginia is a poignant reminder of the need to do more to ensure the safety of our Nation's mines. Hopefully, we can take this horrible tragedy—the worst mining disaster in 40 years—as a call to ensure that all necessary safety and health regulations are in place in our mines, so that coalminers can work in the safest possible conditions. In order to protect the lives of our Nation's miners and their families from tragedy, we must do all that we can to prevent future mining disasters.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1236.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH BRIGHT,  
WHO HELPED RECLAIM THE  
OWENS VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my very good friend Keith Bright, whose leadership, generosity, foresight and persistence helped remake and restore the Owens Valley in California over the past five decades. Mr. Bright passed away April 7, 2010 at the age of 95, and his ever-present smile will be missed greatly by his many friends.